



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Aubrey Thomas of Little Rock, Ark., noncommissioned officer in charge of the 39th Brigade Combat Team's civil military affairs section, sorts through boxes of toys and clothing to distribute to children of the Al Shab village during a visit there Sept. 28. Members of the 39th BCT's S-5 office visited the region in an effort to bring relief to one of Baghdad's poorest regions with toys, candy and clothes for children and first aid items for parents and adults. The 39th BCT is supporting the 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad for Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

## 39th Makes Villagers Smile

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122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The throng of children clamoring for anything the Soldiers could give them reached a fervor pitch. Sitting atop the Humvee, the Soldier scanned over the mass of faces and outstretched arms, looking for one. Spotting her in the back of the crowd, he jumped down from the turret, he made his way through the sea of children to the back of the crowd, holding out a tiny stuffed animal. The little girl reached up and took it from the Soldier, her eyes sparkled as she clutched the toy to her chest, a smile that could melt a

glacier spread across her face.

Visiting the village of Al Shab in Baghdad's Adhamiyah district, Soldiers of the 39th Brigade Combat Team delivered toys, clothes, and school supplies to spread good will and bring some relief to residents in this, one of Adhamiyah's most destitute regions, Sept. 28.

One of the oldest districts in Baghdad, the Sunni stronghold of Adhamiyah, was favored by Saddam Hussein, thus money flowed into the area and the region flourished, but not so for the people living on the outskirts of the district.

"The residents of this area are some of the

poorest in what is considered a reasonably well-to-do district," explained Maj. Gordon McCoy, an assistant civil military affairs (S-5) officer for the brigade. "So, we're out here today to try and bring relief in small ways, with clothing and shoes and even some basic first aid items."

The rows of houses are an island surrounded on all sides by what is the de facto landfill for the region. In the rear of this island stand a sewage treatment plant that engineers with the 39th's S-5 Soldiers are currently working to bring on-line. Until the work on the plant is complete, untreated sewage snakes a river through the land-

scape, its inescapable odor mixing with that of the burning garbage.

"You can just look around you and see what these people live in and are surrounded by," said the Forrest City, Ark. resident pointing to the mountains of burning refuse as he stepped over raw sewage to get to the back of his vehicle. "This is actually the second time we've come to this area since we arrived in country. The first time, we were met with apprehension, but folks really warmed up to us when they realized we were here to help."

McCoy went on to explain that in addition to toys and school supplies,

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# Visit Spreads Goodwill

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the days mission included delivering basic first aid items.

"When last we were here, many of the children we saw had some pretty bad cuts along their legs and feet. Given what they walk through, the potential for infection is extremely high. So as we give out the toys and such to the children, we've also gathered up some shoes to give them and items such as Anti-Microbial ointments, bandages and bottles of hydrogen peroxide to give to the mothers and fathers who come out with their children."

As the trunks popped open revealing boxes and boxes of treasure, resi-

dents crowded around the Soldiers eager to take something home. Soldiers worked diligently to maintain order and control to ensure that each person who approached them received something.

"Basically we're trying to bring a glimmer of sunshine to an otherwise desolate environment," noted McCoy. "And with that, we can hopefully have an effect on how the people of this area view Multi-National forces. If we give them another view of Multi-National Forces, perhaps they won't be so easy to convince when Anti-Iraqi Forces try to spread their propaganda and convince them to do us [Multi-National Forces] harm."

In addition to the goodwill fostered in the hearts of the Iraqi people, Soldiers acting as escort security for the delivery left the experience with a warm feeling.

"These are the type of missions you really like to do," explained Cpl. James Rice, of Stuttgart, Ark., working with Company A of the 39th BCT's 39th Support Battalion. "Too often you hear about Soldiers getting hurt and all the bombings and everything going on around you. It's easy to get disheartened and forget why we are here. You see the look in those kids eyes and the moms and dads thanking you for what you are doing and it makes it all worth it."



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Col. Roger McClellan, the civil military affairs (S-5) officer for the 39th Brigade Combat Team, hands candy to children of the Al-Shab village during a visit to the area Sept 28. The BCT is working to bring relief to the poorest regions of Al Shab.

## SAFETY



### ANTICIPATE DUSTY CONDITIONS

- ♦ ZERO VISIBILITY MUST BE ADDRESSED IN RISK ASSESSMENT
- ♦ PPE (GOOGLES AND SCARVES) SAVE EYES AND RESPIRATORY TRACTS



Date 19 OCT 04 Time 1900 Location Camp Liberty PX  
USO SPONSORS

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High: 102 Low: 74	High: 104 Low: 76	High: 102 Low: 74

Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

I'm exhausted.  
ana munhak

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## News Notes

### Vaccine Shortage Felt in Texas

TEMPLE, Texas (*Temple Daily Telegram*) - Central Texas residents will have to hope for the best this flu season as area hospitals confirmed Wednesday that due to the national shortage of flu vaccine, they too will have to administer doses on a priority basis. Dr. Jim Rohack, professor of medicine at Texas A&M University System College of Medicine and senior staff physician at Scott and White Memorial Hospital, said the shortage is not new to the nation, or Central Texas. "This is the third year in a row that we have had to deal with flu vaccine shortages," he said.

### Restaurant Sells \$100 Cheesesteaks

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The traditional Philly cheesesteak has gone precipitously upscale at one new restaurant, where the chopped steak and melted cheese standard includes goose liver and truffles - and costs \$100. Barclay Prime owner Stephen Starr admits the haute cheesesteak is a marketing ploy for his steakhouse, which opened Tuesday. And he thinks it'll sell. "I believe you will have the rich guy in there who will say, 'Cheesesteaks for the table. And buy one for the guy over there,'" said Starr, an acclaimed restaurateur who has opened 13 eateries here since 1995.



Mount St. Helens expels a cloud of steam and ash Tuesday at Mount St. Helens National Monument, Wash. The volcano has released steam and small amounts of ash daily since Friday, but Tuesday's burst was the largest so far. AP

## 30,000 Ways to Connect a Soldier

WASHINGTON (*Army News*) -Every day in cities, towns and rural outposts throughout America and around the world, hundreds of people sit down at their computers to carry out one mission: they head to the "To Our Soldiers" Web site.

"This site represents a viable communication tool for the general public to reach Soldiers while deployed or at their home station assignment," said Lt. Col. Todd Livick, community relations team chief with the Office, Chief of Public Affairs, Community Relations and Outreach Division.

The site, which has been accepting well wishes for 18 months, receives about 35,000 visitors per month. On Oct. 1, the 30,000th message was posted to the Web site, addressed to a Soldier with the 4th Infantry Division.

"Perhaps the best part about the site is that it provides the opportunity to thank today's Soldiers in real-time measurements. It enables the general public to

reach out to Soldiers and provides them the capability to voice their opinion," Livick said.

The Army community relations team posts several dozen messages per day, from supporters in countries from Iceland to Australia, and from Iraq to Afghanistan. In many cases, the screening staff has attempted to connect friends and family members with deployed loved ones, considering the restriction on posting senders' e-mail and mailing addresses.

The site went live in April 2003 to meet a demand for ways to support Soldiers, according to an officer who was involved in the inception.

"There were several reasons we wanted to have this site, but primarily we were overwhelmed with the requests from the hundreds and thousands of calls we received just prior to and after the start of the ground war in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Dan Williams, who was the community relations chief at the time.



To Our Soldiers Web site  
Over 35,000 visitors per month send messages to deployed Soldiers from the "To Our Soldiers" Web site.

Several months after overseeing the site's implementation, Williams was able to see and use the site himself, as a deployed Soldier on the receiving end of these messages. He was "pleasantly surprised" at the amount of Internet access when he reached Iraq in December 2003.

Those wishing to express their support for Soldiers deployed around the world are encouraged to log on to [www.army.mil/tooursoldiers/](http://www.army.mil/tooursoldiers/) and submit a message.

# Game 2 Goes to AL East

*Yankees Tied with Twins*

NEW YORK (AP) - The Yankees needed someone to save Mariano Rivera. Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter sparked a championship-caliber rally just in time.

Rodriguez got the huge hit New York was waiting for all season, Jeter provided a vintage clutch play and the Yankees pulled off another improbable postseason comeback, beating Minnesota 7-6 Wednesday night to even their series at a game apiece.

"Alex had a little trouble settling in here, but when you do this at Yankee Stadium in a postseason game, especially coming from behind, God only knows what it's going to do for him," New York manager Joe Torre said. "You couldn't get a bigger hit."



New York Yankees manager Joe Torre, left, talks to Alex Rodriguez after the Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins.

That's for sure. Rodriguez came through with a tying double in the 12th inning, then Jeter dashed home on Hideki Matsui's sacrifice fly as the Yankees overcame a rare October failure by Rivera.

*BoSox Trounce Angels*

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) - Pedro Martinez did his part, the bullpen did theirs and now the Boston Red Sox are heading home with a big lead in the AL playoffs.

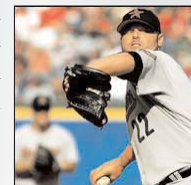
Martinez rebounded from a wretched September by pitching seven effective innings and Manny Ramirez hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly that sent the wild-card Red Sox over the Anaheim Angels 8-3 Wednesday night for a 2-0 edge.

With two wins at Angel Stadium, the Red Sox will try to sweep the best-of-five matchup on Friday at Fenway Park. Bronson Arroyo can put Boston back in the AL championship series when he starts against Kelvim Escobar.

## In Brief

### Not at His Best, Clemens Still Wins

ATLANTA (AP) - The Houston Astros closed the regular season by winning 36 of their last 46 games. The Astros looked deep and resourceful as they battered their postseason nemesis, the Atlanta Braves, 9-3, on Wednesday in Game 1 of their National League division series. Even without the best from Roger Clemens, who labored on the mound with six walks and two wild pitches in seven innings, the Astros were too good for the Braves.



## Vocab. Malfunction Drops Dale to 2nd

(USA Today) - A vocabulary malfunction cost Dale Earnhardt Jr. the Nextel Cup points lead Tuesday as NASCAR officials docked the driver 25 points and fined him \$10,000 for swearing during an NBC victory lane interview after Sunday's race.

Asked by a TV reporter about winning his fifth career race in Talladega, Ala., Earnhardt said: "It don't mean s-- right now. Daddy's (the late Dale Earnhardt) won here 10 times."

Earnhardt left Talladega with a 13-point lead, but the penalty puts him 12 points behind Kurt Busch with seven races to go. Earnhardt's team will appeal the punishment.

NASCAR has cracked

down on profanity after the Federal Communications Commission's reaction to Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" during the Super Bowl halftime show in February.

NASCAR officials will not have to worry about criticism that they show favoritism toward Earnhardt Jr., the sport's most popular driver, after issuing their penalty. Officials had little choice after setting a precedent in penalizing two other drivers 25 points for swearing during live media interviews this year as part of their profanity crackdown.

But some in the garage area, even those whose teams compete against Earnhardt's, wonder whether one naughty word should result in a penalty



Dale Earnhardt Jr. lost valuable Nextel Cup points for a post-race Victory Lane comment.

that could cost a driver a championship.

"I think we're the only sport that takes points off of the board after they've been scored," Dale Earnhardt Inc. director of competition Richie Gilmore said in a statement.

### Nobel Nominee Dylan Debated

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) - How many roads must a man walk down, before you call him a ... Nobel Prize-winning songwriter? It's a question being asked increasingly in literary circles, as the annual debate over who should win the Nobel Prize in literature tosses out a familiar, but surprising, candidate: Bob Dylan. While many music critics agree that Dylan is among the most profound songwriters in modern music, his repeated nomination for the Nobel Prize has raised a vexing question among literary authorities: Should song lyrics qualify for literature's most prestigious award?